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Senate

(Legislative day of Thursday, June 16, 2011)

The Senate met at 2 p.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

O God of time and eternity, You made us. Bring our wandering hearts under Your control. Infuse within our lawmakers a love for You that will make their obedience willing and glad. Lord, enable them to turn from every thought, word, and deed that violates righteousness. Help them to manifest ethical fitness in their private and public lives, making integrity the hallmark of their characters. Let right living begin with them as they resolve to labor for peace and justice and to be good stewards of Your gifts.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 20, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD

BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

There will be no rollcall votes today. The next rollcall vote will be at about noon tomorrow on confirmation of the Simon nomination.

Further, following the weekly caucus meetings on Tuesday, Senators should expect up to three additional rollcall votes on confirmation on the Panetta nomination, cloture on the Economic Development Act, and if cloture is not invoked, cloture on the motion to proceed to the Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act.

AMENDMENTS TO EDA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this Congress convened in January with a single mandate from the American people: create jobs. So Democrats have brought to the Senate floor bill after bill aimed at helping American businesses innovate, grow, and hire. These were good pieces of legislation with proven track records of creating jobs.

Take the latest, the Economic Development Administration reauthorization. Since 1965 the EDA has created

jobs in economically distressed communities all over America, creating good jobs in places that need them, such as Nevada, California, Florida, and many others. This should be a goal on which we can all agree.

In the last 5 years, the Economic Development Administration has created 314,000 jobs and has done it efficiently too. For every dollar the Federal Government invests, private industry invests \$7.

For 45 years the EDA has worked with businesses and universities at the local level to create jobs from the ground up. Even when Republicans controlled the White House, even when they controlled Congress, even when they controlled both, EDA was there helping businesses grow.

Today, our economy needs jobs more than ever. Yet Republicans have found new ways to kill a piece of legislation that would put Americans back to work. They have stood on the Senate floor and talked with straight faces about job creation and then turned around and bogged down good job-creating legislation with amendments that would kill even the most bipartisan bill. Meanwhile, unemployed Americans wait and wait.

They wait while Republicans filibuster, not with words but with amendments. A bill that has created 314,000 jobs in the last 5 years, they filibustered. One would think these must be important amendments if Republicans are willing to make Americans who are standing in the employment line wait longer and longer. But you be the judge.

Our Republican friends are holding up a proven job creator to exempt the sand dune lizard from the Endangered Species Act. Lest the lizard be singled out, there is an amendment to exempt the lesser prairie chicken.

This sends the message that such frivolous amendments, more than 90 of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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